

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 and 11-18 and 102-122 are now presented for examination. New Claims 106-122 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claim 11 has been amended merely to correct a typographical error. No change in scope is either intended or believed to be effected by that amendment, which has not been made for purposes relating to patentability.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 16-18, 102-104, and 106-109 are in independent form.

The Office Action dated October 7, 2003 rejected Claims 20, 21, and 79 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Office Action also rejected Claims 79 and 80 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,853,310 (*Nishimura et al.*), and Claims 1, 19, 20, 79, and 80 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,306,001 (*Hiroki*).

Each of these rejections was addressed fully in the Amendment filed on February 9, 2004.


With regard to added independent Claims 106-109, Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in the references relied on in the Office Action would teach or suggest methods as recited in those claims, including particularly the voltage applying step recited therein. As such, those claims are believed to be clearly patentable over those references.

Added dependent Claims 110-122 each depend from one or another of the independent Claims 106-109, and also are believed to be clearly patentable over the references relied on in the Office Action, at least for the reason that each dependent claim depends from a patentable base claim.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of the added claims and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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